

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
JULY 27, 2010
(9:00 A.M.)**

Proceedings of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, held in the auditorium at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida.

Proof of publication of the notice of a special meeting for the purpose of conducting the St. Johns County Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Workshop was received, having been published in *The St. Augustine Record* on July 16, 2010.

Present were: Ron Sanchez, District 2, Chair
 Ken Bryan, District 5, Vice Chair
 Cyndi Stevenson, District 1
 Ray Quinn, District 3
 Michael D. Wanchick, County Administrator
 Patrick McCormack, County Attorney
 Terry Bulla, Deputy Clerk

(07/27/10 - 1 - 9:01 a.m.)
CALL TO ORDER

Sanchez called the meeting to order.

(07/27/10 - 1 - 9:02 a.m.)
Quinn gave the Invocation and Bryan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(07/27/10 - 1 - 9:03 a.m.)
ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

There were none.

(07/27/10 - 1 - 9:03 a.m.)
APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Bryan, seconded by Sanchez, carried 4/0 with Mays absent, to approve the Special Meeting Agenda as submitted.

(07/27/10 - 1 - 9:04 a.m.)
1. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET, FY 2011 ST. JOHNS COUNTY
 RECOMMENDED FINANCIAL PLAN - Discussion of the recommended
 budgets for the following funds

Doug Timms, Director of Management and Budget, stated that the recommended budget would be the tightest budget that the County had ever faced, but they were confident in the overall budget. He said it did not contain employee furloughs or layoffs and contained, on average, a 10 percent Board property tax cut to its citizens in the tough economic times. He noted that careful Board planning had positioned the County to be among the strongest financially in the state. He said the primary purpose was to provide the Board with the budget books, as a resource, as they proceeded in the budget process, which would conclude in September. He explained how the plan was

laid out and how it would be reviewed. He said the County had been able to maintain a solid reserve level.

- Sheriff's Office
 - Law Enforcement Operations
 - Corrections Division
 - Bailiff Operations
 - Special Programs
- Property Appraiser
- Supervisor of Elections
- Tax Collector
- Clerk of Courts
- Court Services

He reviewed the Constitutional Officers' portion of the budget and noted that their presentations had previously been made by each Officer. He noted significant features of the Sheriff's budget, and noted there had been a cut in his budget despite the pressures on his budget. He also noted that in the Court budget those were mandated costs that could not be cut.

- General Fund – General Government
- General Fund – Public Safety
- General Fund – Physical Environment
- General Fund – Health & Human Services
- General Fund – Economic Environment
- General Fund – Culture & Recreation
- Mental Health Fund
- Transportation Trust Fund

Timms reviewed the furlough effect and retirement increases, but that for the most part, all departments were down, with a general freeze in spending. He reviewed each of the general government department budgets. He then reviewed the public safety budgets, and the physical environment segments of the budget, the Health and Human Services portion of the budget as well as the Independent Agencies. He reviewed the Economic Development portion of the budget, as well as Culture and Recreation, and the Non-Operating portion of the budget. He noted that the Reserves were fairly stable at \$26,371,323.

- Health Department Fund
- Building Services Fund
- Law Enforcement Trust Fund
- State Housing Initiatives Partnership Fund
- Mental Health Fund
- Transportation Trust Fund

Timms noted that Special Revenue funds included the Health Department, the Building Department, the Law Enforcement Trust, SHIP, Mental Health and the Transportation Trust. He reviewed the sub-categories in the Transportation Trust.

- Beach Services Fund
- County Pier Fund
- Tourist Development Tax Fund
- Tree Bank Fund

He reviewed Beach Services and its sub-categories, the County Pier, Tourist Development and its sub-categories, and the Tree Bank fund.

- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Trust Fund
- Communications Surcharge Fund
- Florida Boating Improvement Fund

Timms reviewed the Alcohol/Drug Trust, the Communications Surcharge and the Florida Boating Improvement Fund, with discussion regarding the funding sources for that fund.

Impact Fee Funds

He reviewed the Impact Fees utilizing debt service support for Public Buildings. He then reviewed impact fees for Police, Fire, Road A, B, C, and D, and Parks A, B, C, and D.

E-911 Communications Fund

Timms then reviewed the License Plate Florida Arts, and the E-911 Communications.

Fire District Fund

Jesse Dunn, Office of Management and Budget, reviewed Fire Rescue including Capital and Reserve funds. Discussion ensued regarding new firefighter positions. He noted there was a healthy level of reserve, but they would be utilized as they moved forward.

- Special Districts Funds
- Northwest Tower Fund
- Court Innovation Fund
- Crimes Prevention Trust Fund
- Court Technology Trust Fund
- Legal Aid Fund
- Law Library Fund
- Choose Life License Plate Fund
- Sidewalk Mitigation Fund
- Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Funds
- Special Districts Funds (continued)
- World Commerce Center Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Fund
- Driver's Safety Education Fund
- Summerhaven Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU)
- Court Facilities Trust Fund
- Juvenile Alternative Programs Fund
- Community Based Care Fund
- County Cultural Centers Fund

Dunn reviewed special revenue funds including the Vilano Lighting District, an ad valorem assessment; Elkton Drainage, an ad valorem assessment; St. Augustine South Light District, and the NW Tower Fund with discussion ensuing regarding use of the revenue generated by that fund. He reviewed the Court Innovation fund for the Drug Court Program, Crimes Prevention, Court Technology, Legal Aid, and the Law Library and their funding sources. He reviewed the License Plate: Choose Life fund, and Sidewalk Construction funded by sidewalk mitigation fees. He reviewed the CRA: Flagler Estates, CRA West Augustine, and the CRA: Vilano. Discussion ensued on the deficits being carried due to the drop in property value and it was noted it was only an

interim loss and would be recovered when values recovered. He reviewed MSBU: CH Arnold Grading, Deerwood, Rusty Anchor/Wendover, World Commerce DRI fund to be utilized for affordable housing, Driver Education fund utilized by the School Board, MSTU: Summerhaven for berm improvements, the Court Facilities Trust Fund for Courthouse related expenses including current renovations, Juvenile Alternative Programs Fun, Community Based Care Funds, and the Cultural Center Fund including the Amphitheatre and Fair Grounds operations.

Debt Service Funds

Dunn reviewed the Debt Service funds and their revenue sources including the 03 Transportation Improvement Fund supported by gas taxes, the Courthouse Refund for Courthouse Renovations, Ponte Vedra MSD, 06 Transportation Debt Service, GE Capital, 04 Sales Tax, 06 Sales Tax, Fannie Mae, Commercial Paper, 09 Sales Tax, Flagler CRA, 09 Sales Tax, and the 05 Revenue Sharing Bond.

- Transit System Capital Project Fund
- Northwest Road Project Fund
- Park Construction Projects Fund
- Beach Re-Nourishment Fund
- 09 Sales Tax Bonds Projects Fund
- 06 Bond Transportation Improvements Fund
- Transit System Capital Project Fund
- SR 207 Corridor Improvement Group (CIG) Development Agreement Projects Fund
- 06 Sales Tax Bonds Projects Fund

He reviewed the Capital Improvement Funds including the North West Road Project, Park Construction, Beach Renourishment, the 09 Sales Tax Bond and their related projects. He continued with the 06 Transportation Improvement Bond, the Transit System, the SR 207 Corridor Improvement Group Development Agreement, 06 Sales tax Bonds and the associated projects and related debt services.

- Solid Waste Fund
- Utility Services Fund

He reviewed the Enterprise Funds including Solid Waste and the associated projects, Utility Services and the associated projects and related debt services.

- Convention Center Fund
- Golf Course Fund
- Ponte Vedra Utility Services Fund

He reviewed the Convention Center budget which largely reflected the debt service, the Golf Course Enterprise fund and its associated projects and debt service, and the Ponte Vedra utilities and its associated projects, and debt services.

- Worker Compensation Insurance Fund
- Health Insurance Fund
- Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) Funds
- Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund

Timms reviewed the Internal Service Funds which he noted were in excellent shape, including Workers Comp funds, Group Insurance, the Flexible Spending Accounts for Medical and Dependent, and the OPEB Trust which was mandated.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY 2011-2015

He reviewed the Capital Improvement Projects for 2011-2015. He noted that only one year was approved at a time and only the funding for 2011 was being recommended, which was still subject to change. He said some projects were listed for which funding did not exist and would be pursued only if funding became available.

He said that the millage rate would be recommended on August 3. He said public hearings would occur on September 21 and September 28, before the budget was adopted. He said the \$586 million was the total recommended budget. He noted that additional corrections would be made and disclosed to the Board during the upcoming meetings as well as revenue updates.

(10:18 a.m.) Wanchick said it was a sound budget during tough financial times. He said many governments were draining their reserves at great financial risks, but St. Johns County was not doing that. He said we should be very proud. He said the next year would be very challenging, and we should enjoy where we were currently.

(10:19 a.m.) Sanchez expressed appreciation to everyone during these tough financial times, and gave kudos to the staff for their good attitudes and hard work.

(10:20 a.m.) Stevenson asked if the Commission would allow the Chairman and the Administrator to look at the legislation that passed the House, and was headed towards the US Senate, mandating collective bargaining for public safety employees, and write an appropriate letter on its impact on St. Johns County. She said Senators Nelson and Lemieux could help them carry that message. She stated that the legislation was being opposed by the Sheriff's Association and the National Association of Counties. She asked for their support in writing letters to the Legislature. *There was Board Consensus to do so.*

Additionally, she asked that an insert be put into the tax mailings with some basic County information about the budget; a summary of budget overview information with contact websites and other general information. She said there was a lot of misinformation about budgets and it was hard to communicate factual information. She said it would cost \$10 - \$15 thousand dollars and asked for Board support. Sanchez asked if it could be inserted with the TRIM notices. Wanchick said Dennis Hollingsworth, Tax Collector, was looking at what could be done. Bryant said it would be helpful, as it was a document the public would read. Sanchez said that he would support it. Discussion ensued on reserves and the public perceptions of the funds. *There was Board consensus to support the request.*

(10:25 a.m.) Wanchick noted that the County's reserves weren't excessive, were in line with accounting practices, and were where they needed to be. He agreed that one disaster could hamper those resources.

(07/27/10 - 5 - 10:26 a.m.)

2. OTHER BUSINESS AS NECESSARY

Wanchick said they had received an e-mail concerning Palencia athletic fields not being funded. He said that funds were available for those fields and that would be made public. Discussion ensued.

(10:28 a.m.) Ellen Whitmer, 1178 Natures Hammock Rd. South, Fruit Cove, commended the Budget Office and Administration for the finely tuned budget and its presentation.

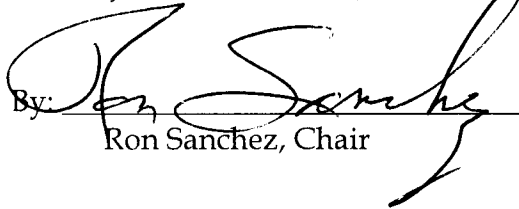
She commented on the Community Redevelopment areas and said that they had been assured that they would carry themselves, and that had not happened. She said she would like to see assessments made to those who benefited from them and the deficit not made up by the County. She said it was an inequitable situation.

(10:32 a.m.) McCormack commented on the insert requested by Stevenson and asked the Board to approve not going in excess of \$25,000. *There was Board consensus to do so.*

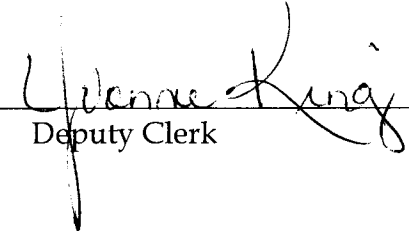
With there being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Approved _____ August 17 _____, 2010

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:  _____
Ron Sanchez, Chair

ATTEST; CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By:  _____
Deputy Clerk

